

EXHIBIT 28

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U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration

Civil Aviation Security Information Circular

Information of Concern to Aviation Security Personnel
Current Security Procedures Should be Reviewed in Light of
This Information

Subject: Continued Middle Eastern Threats to Civil Aviation

Number: IC-2001-04A **Date:** July 31, 2001

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EXPIRATION: October 20, 2001.

This Information Circular supersedes IC-2001-04, which expired on July 31, 2001.

INFORMATION: U.S. Government personnel and facilities remain at a heightened state of alert following reports of possible near-term terrorist operations. The potential for Middle Eastern terrorist groups or individuals to conduct terrorist operations against U.S. interests, particularly on the Arabian Peninsula and/or in Israel, has increased in 2001. The threat can be attributed to several factors, including:

- an unabated armed conflict between Israel and the Palestinians that has reached dangerous levels and threatens regional stability;
- a desire by extremist elements to force the departure of U.S. military and civilian personnel from the Arabian Peninsula through violence;
- opposition to U.S. foreign policy objectives in the Middle East;
- and, frustration on the part of extremists with counterterrorist successes that have resulted in U.S. arrests, prosecutions, and incarcerations of key militant operatives and leaders.

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These factors may become more significant with the approach of two anniversary dates:

- August 7 – marks the date the U.S. began the military build-up on the Arabian Peninsula in preparation for the 1991 Gulf War with Iraq. It was the chosen date for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, by terrorists affiliated with Usama bin Laden. Four terrorist operatives involved in the attack on the embassies have been arrested, convicted, and recently sentenced to lengthy prison terms in the United States. The desire to drive the United States from the Arabian Peninsula was the focus of an August 23, 1996 Islamic decree (fatwa) by Usama bin Laden. In the fatwa, bin Laden called on all Muslims to help "liberate the Islamic holy shrines."
- September 28 – marks the date of the first anniversary of the unrest associated with the al-Aqsa Intifada in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. The anniversary will occur one day after the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. During 2001, there has been a sharp increase in the number of terrorist bombings in Israel. A number of public facilities, to include the international airport in Tel Aviv, have been threatened.

The terrorism threat is not solely confined to the Middle East. In June 2001, U.S. authorities learned of a disrupted plot to bomb U.S. interests in New Delhi, India. In addition, in the past eight months, several North African extremists have been arrested in Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom for plotting terrorist activities in Europe. The likelihood that further spillover of terrorist activities from the Middle East to other areas of the world is of concern. Information about potential threats to U.S. interests has led a number of U.S. embassies to temporarily suspend services in order to review their security measures. There also have been a number of non-specific threats made against U.S. interests, to include U.S. civil aviation interests.

COMMENT: Despite recent terrorist activity which suggests a possible near-term terrorist attack, the target of such an attack is less clear. The Federal Aviation Administration does not have any credible information regarding specific plans by terrorist groups to attack U.S. civil aviation interests.

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Nevertheless, some of the currently active groups are known to plan and train for hijackings and have the capability to construct sophisticated IEDs concealed [REDACTED]. The FAA encourages all U.S. carriers to exercise prudence and demonstrate a high degree of alertness.

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